

Alaska Applications

2103 Binney Street
Omaha, Nebraska
October 8, 1941

Rev. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Dr. King:

My wife and I have been interested in missionary work in Alaska for a good many years. At present I am a middler at Omaha Seminary.

We should appreciate receiving application blanks from you. It will be easier to give you the information that you desire then.

Respectfully yours,

Edward D. Freeman

October 23, 1941

Mr. Edward D. Freeman
2103 Binney Street
Omaha, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Freeman:

Enclosed you will find an application blank which I hope you will take time to fill out very carefully and return to my office. I cannot promise you any appointment for the Alaskan work but do need this application for reference.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

November 3, 1941

Mr. Edward D. Freeman
2103 Binney Street
Omaha, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Freeman:

Thank you for your application blank that we are filing away. When the opportunity presents itself we will call the application back for consideration.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

AUG 14 1944

3719 North 43rd Street
Omaha 11, Nebraska
August 10, 1944

The Reverend Mr. J. Earl Jackman
Secretary for Sunday School Missions and Alaska
Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

My dear Mr. Jackman:

It is my understanding that there are at least three vacancies in southeastern Alaska.

Alaska has always had a particular fascination for me and so naturally I am greatly interested in putting my qualifications before you. Frankly, I am eager to take part in this missionary work. When I think of all the opportunities people in the United States proper have to hear the gospel, and how few they have on mission fields, I wonder why I am still here.

I am not a brilliant preacher or a great scholar, altho I enjoy preaching and I love to study, but I do have a great desire to see people outside of Christ come to a saving knowledge of my Lord and Saviour, and I should like to go where I feel there is a greater need.

My educational training includes two years at the University of Minnesota, a B.M. from the MacPhail School of Music in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a summer session at the Illinois State Normal University at Normal, Illinois, two years of high school teaching, and a B.D. from the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Omaha, Nebraska.

After serving the Fairview Presbyterian Church of Omaha, Nebraska for two and a half years as student pastor, upon my graduation from the seminary I was called to that pulpit. Last October, in addition to my work at Fairview, I took on the work at the West Benson Chapel, which I had the privilege of guiding into an organized church, now the Trinity Presbyterian Church of Omaha.

I was ordained to the gospel ministry by the presbytery of Omaha, June 27, 1943.

You should have my name, application, and some information about me in your files, as I made application for service in Alaska when Dr. King, was secretary for that work. When Dr. King was in Omaha at the start of my senior year in seminary, he promised me a position in Alaska. Then when Alaska became a danger zone in the war, he told me that they were not sending men with families to Alaska. Now that things are opening up again in Alaska, I should very much like to renew that application. Both Mrs. Freeman and I, and our two daughters, Susan and Sally, are looking forward to being used of the Lord in His service in Alaska.

At present I am twenty-nine years of age, in excellent physical health. I was raised on the Missabe Iron Range in Duluth presbytery, and I thrive on cold weather. I know southeastern Alaska doesn't begin to get as cold as northern Minnesota. We really wanted to go up into Yukon presbytery, but we should be glad to take something in Alaska presbytery, if nothing in the Yukon is available.

Yours in the Master's service,

Edward D. Freeman

August 22, 1944

The Rev. Edward D. Freeman
3719 North 43rd St.,
Omaha 11, Nebraska

My dear Mr. Freeman:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your interest in service in Alaska. We need good men up there this fall, and we are enclosing an information form for you to fill out.

I find some old information in the files about you, but there is no written statement as to Dr. King's purpose. We shall give consideration to your request as soon as we can follow up your references.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

mk
enc.-P.I.F.

Dictated but not signed by
Mr. Jackman

*File
Alaskan Applicant*

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS

TO Mr. A. L. Roberts
FROM Unit of Work in Alaska - Miss Koerner
RE: *Freeman, E. D.*

DATE August 30, 1944

URGENT

In a communication just received from Mr. Jackman he writes:

"If we have any further information from Mr. Freeman who says he was promised a place in Alaska by Dr. King we ought to follow it quickly. If his information folder has been returned ask Mr. Roberts' office to follow up the references."

*9/14/44
ref'd to
after reviewing
same*

The Rev. Edward DeWitt Freeman, Omaha, Nebraska has sent in his Preliminary Information Form sent by our office and gives the following persons as references. Will you kindly follow these up in the regular procedure as Mr. Jackman suggests? Thank you.

1. Dr. Walter R. Clyde, Evangelical Seminary, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico
2. Dr. Francis L. Bouquet, 118 Bolinas Ave., San Anselmo, Calif.
3. Dr. Earle E. Cairns, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill.
4. John MacDonald, Lincoln Hotel, Duluth, Minnesota

Unit of Work in Alaska
per

FK

Alaska Applicant

September 14, 1944

The Rev. Edward D. Freeman
3719 N. 43rd Street
Omaha 11, Neb.

My dear Mr. Freeman:

We have been following up your references looking toward an appointment in Alaska and find that practically all of them are in at this time. Our general impression is that everything is favorable toward that appointment this Fall. We will not make a final decision until after we have a personal interview with you but that ought to come soon.

I am scheduled to be at the meeting of the Synod of the West in George, Iowa on September 27th and 28th. From there I go to the meeting of the Synod of Wyoming and am rather expecting to come down to Omaha on the way. This should put me in Omaha either the 29th or 30th of this month, as I am able to get transportation. I shall have to notify you a little bit later because the connections between the two places do not look too good from present examination. Hold yourself in readiness and I will let you know in plenty of time to make arrangements for the interview. I want to visit with you and your wife both.

After a favorable discussion of Alaskan service and your fitness for it, we would make a decision about it at that time which would be mutually agreeable and then would anticipate your appointment as soon thereafter as possible.

Meanwhile, you can be thinking about two fields which seem at the moment to be the neediest fields where we need to provide ordained leadership from the Church. One of them is Ketchikan which is supposed to be largely a native Church but which has a considerable number of younger white couples in it. We have the facilities there, in good condition, for a good Church program and we have a recreation building which is in excellent condition for a strong program among the native Indian Youth of that community. There are some matters of relationships with the Methodist Church in which comity agreements are involved which need to be cleared and fairly discussed, but there is a great opportunity there for an excellent service.

Ketchikan is the first stop for all of the passengers who come into Alaska. It has a community of about 6500 people, has a comparatively mild climate with an excessive amount of rainfall. They tell me that the rain does not come down in torrents but keeps drizzling a good part of the year. Jim Hall, the last minister there, told me that he wore a light top coat most of the winter even during the rain. The rain was not heavy enough to wet his coat but was with them much of the time.

September 14, 1944

The other Church which is in great need of a pastor at the present moment is our Church at Haines which is at the upper end of the Inside Passage. The Haines Church building needs some very definite attention of a major fashion. We must spend some money on the building to save it. The manse is in fairly good condition but may need a little bit of repair. We have basic furniture in both of these fields. The man at Haines will have a relationship with our orphanage which is on adjoining property. There are 44 Indian boys and girls in the Home and we expect to have our man minister to them and work out a relationship with the Home and try to help in the program with the young people both on Sundays and week-days. By program I mean some activity with the older boys and girls in addition to their direction by the Staff of the Home. They live there and go to the public school. Our work at Haines is largely Indian. There are a few whites in the community but they are tough nuts to crack. There is a small army barracks there which will survive known as Chitkoot Barracks. It was greatly increased during the danger period in Alaska but is now reduced. There is a new highway called the Dalton Highway running from Haines north to connect with the Alcan Highway. Last winter it had been closed. No one knows what the future on this will be but it is quite possible much shipping from the west coast will go through and can be trucked north on this Highway. In this case we shall have to anticipate some field work out from Haines. About 20 miles north of Haines there is a small village known as Klukwan where we plan to place a woman worker. We would ask our minister from Haines to come up there at least quarterly and perform the functions of the ministry for that Church organization.

Both of these fields present their respective problems, responsibilities, and challenges. I should say either place will require the best that is in you if you can see a vision of what must be done and do it. We shall talk about this matter more fully when I see you. Meanwhile, I am looking forward to the interview with you and hope that something may develop for both of us.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEF:FK

Alaska Applicant

SEP 21 1944

3719 North 43rd Street
Omaha 11, Nebraska
September 19, 1944

The Rev. Mr. J. Earl Jackman
Unit of Work in Alaska
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Jackman:

Your letter of September 14 is most encouraging. The speed with which the references are coming in is indeed an answer to prayer. If our interview on the 29th or 30th of this month is favorable, I intend to call a congregational meeting for Monday, October 2 to act on the dissolution of the pastoral relationship. Presbytery meets on the floor of Synod, Wednesday, October 4. It all seems to be working out to make it possible for us to go to Alaska this fall.

If you have no other business to attend to while in Omaha, we should very much like to entertain you in our home. If you would be staying over night you are welcome to stay with us. I imagine that in all of your traveling around and eating in restaurants, you would appreciate being able to come out and enjoying a home-cooked meal with us.

Thank you for your prompt attention to my application. We are looking forward eagerly to meeting you soon.

Respectfully yours,

Edward D. Freeman

Edward D. Freeman

Alaska Applicant

September 22, 1944

The Rev. Edward D. Freeman
3719 North 43rd Street
Omaha 11, Nebraska

My dear Mr. Freeman:

Thank you for your letter of September 19th regarding arrangements for our interview in Omaha. From present indications it would seem that I would arrive in Omaha by bus from Sioux City about 7:58 P.M. on September twenty-ninth and would plan to get the 11:15 train on the Union Pacific to Cheyenne, Wyoming if a reservation can be secured. At the present writing the train is reported to be sold out but there may be some hope later of getting a reservation. This would give us an opportunity of spending the evening together if you are free.

A letter from Layton Jackson indicates that he wants to talk to me also about service up there. Perhaps we can all get together and go over Alaska pretty thoroughly.

It was kind of you to invite me to stay with you but such a schedule as I have prevents this privilege.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FX

VIA AIRMAIL

File
Edward D. Freeman

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

October 3, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. William J. Howell
107 Main Street
Renton, Washington

My dear Mr. Howell:

In a letter just received from Mr. Jackman who is on a field trip, he asks that we write you to arrange transportation for the earliest date after October 30th for The Rev. and Mrs. Edward D. Freeman and their two small daughters to go from Seattle to Ketchikan, Alaska. The Rev. Mr. Freeman is to be our Pastor in the Ketchikan Church.

Mr. Jackman further reports that The Freeman's hope to leave Omaha, Neb. by October 16th or 18th, visit their families in Minnesota, and then drive to Seattle where they will sell their car and be ready to sail for Ketchikan.

We will appreciate if it you will let us know any developments in securing these transportations just as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Frieda Koerner, Secretary to
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

FK

OCT 5 1944

3719 North 43rd Street
Omaha 11, Nebraska
October 3, 1944

The Rev. Mr. J. Earl Jackman
Secretary, Unit of Work in Alaska
Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Jackman:

I was down to the ration board to-day to apply for gas for driving to Seattle and they said that I would have to have a statement from the Board stating that this was going to be a permanent thing, and that I should drive to Seattle.

We are hoping to leave next week as soon as possible, but, of course, we will not be able to leave until we have the gas to drive, and we can't get the gas until we have the statement from the Board of National Missions.

Your prompt attention to this matter will be appreciated, and will have us arriving in Ketchikan on schedule.

We enjoyed the interview last Friday evening, and are thrilled at the prospect of the work in Alaska. Our people were reluctant to let us go, and we thought for awhile last night at the congregational meeting, that they were going to refuse, but on the third ballot they voted to concur with us in requesting presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relationship.

Respectfully yours,

Edward D. Freeman

Edward D. Freeman

October 5, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Edward D. Freeman
3719 North 43rd Street
Omaha 11, Nebraska

My dear Mr. Freeman:

Your letter of October 3rd was received in the absence of Mr. Jackman who is away on a field trip. This matter will be brought to his attention when he returns to the office.

In the meantime, we are enclosing herewith a letter to your Local Rationing Board which includes the statement that your position in Ketchikan will be permanent and your necessity of driving to Seattle. We trust that it will bring quick action so that you will be able to start your journey in good time.

Sincerely yours,

Frieda Koerner, Secretary to
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

FK

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

October 5, 1944

Local Rationing Board
Omaha 11, Nebraska

Gentlemen:

This is to certify that The Rev. Edward D. Freeman, 3719 North 43rd Street, Omaha 11, Nebraska has been appointed by the Board of National Missions as Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Ketchikan, Alaska. He is to be employed full time by this Board and will receive full salary from the Board. It is necessary for Mr. Freeman and his family to proceed at the earliest possible time to Ketchikan.

Mr. Freeman has called to our attention the fact that he needs a statement from the Board that this is a permanent assignment before he can secure the extra gasoline to permit his driving to Seattle where he and his family will get passage on a boat for his Alaskan destination. May we assure you that this appointment is for permanent service. We are in great need of his services in Alaska and it is necessary for him to drive to Seattle to secure passage as soon as possible.

We are not asking any special favor of your Board, but we do request that you give Mr. Freeman's application careful consideration under the rules of the Office of Price Administration. According to our understanding of those rules, it is within your power to grant him priority standing and we believe this will be in keeping with the policy now being followed throughout the country.

Sincerely yours,

H.N.Morse

HNM:FK

Administrative Secretary

October 13, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL-SPECIAL DELIVERY

The Rev. Edward D. Freeman
3719 North 43rd Street
Omaha 11, Nebraska

My dear Mr. Freeman:

In the enclosed letter of appointment, we have said nothing to you about specific salary or conditions because those things may change within your period of service and relationship with the Board. Your salary is to be \$1800 a year with manse furnished and one month's vacation with the Board of National Missions paying its part of the employer's portion of the pension premiums to the Board of Pensions.

We are docketing your salary on the basis of \$1600 a year with monthly payments of \$133.33 beginning November 1st. This amount will be sent to you at the beginning of each month and you will be asked to make out a monthly report on the fifteenth of each month covering the activities of the first half of that month and the latter part of the preceding month. To this report will be attached a voucher which you will fill out calling for the amount of your salary. Meanwhile, we are asking your Church to assume \$200 a year of the amount of this salary. If the Church does not undertake these payments we will be responsible for it but want them to have an increasing part in your support. We have written to the Clerk of Session asking them to bear this responsibility. Don't tell them we will if they don't. As soon as you are settled and arrangements can be made to take care of this up there, we will ask you to report it to us and we will make the corresponding adjustment here at the office. It is our policy to ask the local congregations to assume as much of the support of their pastor as they are able to with other local expenses of the Church. As their ability increases their portion of the support should increase and ours decrease in order that we may use these funds for other mission work in the territory.

It is necessary for our Treasury Department to have a complete tax form on hand in order to clear the payments of your salary with the Bureau of Internal Revenue. We are enclosing these forms and will ask you to complete them and return them as promptly as possible.

We are enclosing a check for \$500 to cover your travel expenses to the field. You may charge against this \$.04 a mile on your car by the shortest

October 13, 1914

milage between Omaha and Seattle. There is also an allowance of \$2.50 a day each for hotel fare for you and your wife with a proportionate amount for children. The regular allowance is also \$2 a day per person for meals. This will cover, of course, the distance between Omaha and Seattle. Your visit to your parents in Minnesota should be your own responsibility but certainly you would want to do it before you leave the States. On your trip you should allow 200 pounds excess baggage per person for which the Board will pay the freight. On everything above that amount the Board will pay one-half of the freight. In your case driving to Seattle, we wonder if it is possible for you to take everything with you in the car to Seattle and then ship by boat from Seattle to Ketchikan. This may not be possible in the case of books but we shall leave that to your judgement and adjust it with you later. We will ask you to give us an accounting of your expenses after you arrive. If they are within the amount of this check you should then send us a refund but if they are more we expect to bear our responsibility according to the statement.

We have asked the Rev. William J. Howell, 197 Main Street, Renton, Washington (a suburb of Seattle) to arrange for your transportation north as soon after October 30th as possible. We have had no report from him yet on travel arrangements. We should have a statement from you as to your whereabouts in order to reach you with information concerning these arrangements. Notify The Rev. Mr. Howell in advance when you will arrive in Seattle and you should plan to be there a couple of days in advance in order to make arrangements for the sale of your car and accommodations on the boat. Mr. Howell has been notified of the fact that you assume the pastorate under a stated supply arrangement with the Ketchikan Church and has asked for clergy rates for your passage northward. While your wife is not officially appointed along with you we consider her a missionary too and it may be possible to secure clergy rates for her.

If you have further questions about any of these matters do not hesitate to give them to us. We hope that your arrangements are being completed in a satisfactory manner.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JES:FK
Enc. Check #2749 - \$300.-
Tax Forms

October 13, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Edward D. Freeman
3719 North 43rd Street
Omaha 11, Nebraska

My dear Mr. Freeman:

You have been appointed by the Board of National Missions as a missionary under our Board in the Church in Ketchikan, Alaska and will proceed to Ketchikan as soon as arrangements can be made for your release from your Church in Omaha, and the transportation of your necessary personal effects and your family to Alaska. You will reside in the Church property in Ketchikan and will carry your ministry through the Church and its recreational building.

This appointment is made on the basis of a five year period of service under the conditions of service for our missionaries in the territory. Adjustments in your salary and transportation will be made also according to the regular procedures covering the Board's relationship and responsibility for all our missionaries in the territory.

We join with you in feeling that this has been a calling from God for your consecrated service and pray that you and your family may be richly blessed in your answer to this call.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

EDWARD FREEMAN
VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA

OCT 19 1944
(5:40 PM)
JFK

October 18, 1944

The Rev. Mr. J. Earl Jackman
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

My dear Mr. Jackman:

It's long past due, the time that I should have reported on my progress.

Our gas coupons arrived last Friday afternoon, so we left Omaha late Friday afternoon and went as far as Woodbine, Iowa, where we spent the evening with friends. Saturday, we drove to Minneapolis, where we stayed with Mrs. Freeman's parents. Tuesday, we drove to Virginia, Minnesota, where we are staying with my father. We plan to leave here on Friday, October 20, and drive on highway No. 10 to Seattle, arriving about the 25th or 26th of October.

We should appreciate hearing from you before we arrive in Seattle, so that we might know how to get in touch with Mr. McCall when we arrive. Perhaps if you write to Mr. McCall, or to the General Delivery, we should have instructions before we arrive in Seattle.

Yours in the Master's service,

Edward D. Freeman

Edward D. Freeman

October 20, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Edward D. Freeman
c/o General Delivery
Ellensburg, Washington

My dear Mr. Freeman:

Your special delivery letter of October eighteenth has been received in the absence of Mr. Jackman who is away from the office on a short trip. It will be brought to his attention upon his return to the office on Monday, October twenty-third.

In the meantime I am replying to your inquiry to the best of my knowledge so that no time will be lost. We have had no definite word from Mr. Howell, as yet, as to your transportation. We have written to him several times in reference to this matter and perhaps he is waiting word from us as to your whereabouts. In reply to your question as to how to get in touch with Mr. Howell when you arrive in Seattle, I am taking the liberty of making several suggestions and trust that one of them will work out. You will find enclosed a copy of my letter to Mr. Howell in regard to this. If you do not receive a letter from him when you arrive at Ellensburg with full instructions, then it probably would be well to telegraph him from Ellensburg as to the approximate time of your arrival in Seattle and notify him that you will telephone him upon your arrival in Seattle so that he will be in Renton when you phone. I am quite sure the Church at Renton will have a phone as Renton is a suburb of Seattle. You can secure the phone number from a directory when you arrive in Seattle. The Rev. William J. Howell is the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Renton, Washington, and his residence is 107 Main Street, Renton, Washington. We are forwarding a copy of this letter to him so that he will be informed of these particulars.

We sincerely hope that you are having a good trip so far and that everything will work out satisfactorily along the way with you contacting Mr. Howell without too much difficulty. We shall appreciate it if you will keep the office informed as to how things are developing.

Sincerely yours,

Frieda Koerner, Secretary to
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

FK
~~cc to Mr. Howell~~

Page #2

The Rev. Edward D. Freeman

October 20, 1944

P.S. Upon second thought, we have sent a day letter to The Rev. Mr. Howell as follows:

"WRITE EDWARD D. FREEMAN C/O GENERAL DELIVERY ELLENSBURG
WASHINGTON BY OCTOBER TWENTY-THIRD FOR TO CONTACT YOU
WHEN THEY ARRIVE IN SEATTLE ON OCTOBER TWENTY-FIFTH OR
TWENTY-SIXTH."
J. Earl Jackman

Therefore, you will not find a copy of our letter to Mr. Howell enclosed, nor have we sent a copy of this letter to him as we mentioned. However, if there is no letter at Ellensburg from Mr. Howell then you can follow the procedure as suggested in this letter.

October 25, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Edward D. Freeman
c/o The Rev. William J. Howell
107 Main Street
Renton, Washington

My dear Mr. Freeman:

Sorry that you are having a delay in Seattle because of sailing arrangements. We hope it may be possible for this time to be moved up so that you can get away earlier than the thirteenth, although at this distance it may not be possible.

You got away from Omaha earlier than we expected and we did not get you the time of your sailing before you began your trip West, otherwise you might have spent more time with your families before leaving.

We trust that Mr. Howell will give you every cooperation in getting settled during your time of waiting. A little rest won't hurt you but if you want to be doing something you might stop in at Synod's office, 1203 American Building, Seattle 4, Washington and see The Rev. Mortimer M. Stocker, D.D. about pulpit supply or some other service which you might render.

You have not indicated in your letter whether you received the travel check and the tax forms. We hope that these were received before you left and that you have already completed the tax forms for their return to us. We shall have to have these before the Treasury Department can make any salary check to you.

We are concerned whether or not you have sufficient funds to protect you on your journey but we presume that the sale of your car and the advance which we made that you would have. We had planned to begin your salary as of November first but since you left so soon it is possible we should make some adjustment on this. We can decide this matter with you later.

We hope you will not be delayed too long and will be looking forward to a report telling us about your arrival in Ketchikan. We have just had a letter from the new Chaplain at the Coast Guard Station who is continuing the services there. Lt. Clarence E. Davison is a Presbyterian and carrying on as best he can until you arrive.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

NOV 13 1944

My dear Mr. Jackson:

JAN 4 1945

Box 46
Ketchikan, Alaska
December 14, 1944

The Reverend Mr. J. Earl Jackman
Secretary, Unit of Alaska Work
Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

My dear Mr. Jackman:

note on application form
In making out last month's report, we neglected to list our nearest of kin, in case they needed to be notified. Mine is Mr. Edward Freeman, 321 Second Street South, Virginia, Minnesota. He is my father. Mrs. Freeman's nearest of kin is her mother, Mrs. H. F. Schultz, 3328 First Avenue South, Minneapolis 8, Minnesota.

In my rounds of calls this month, I called on two old elders, who are no longer members of the session, but who served many faithful years in this church, and who now because of their advanced years and feebleness, are no longer able to attend services. My how appreciative they were to have someone call on them and to read the Bible to them and to pray with them. Really, it did me a lot of good just to see these two old saints of God. Such calls are not a chore but a blessing to a pastor.

see Rec Center
We discovered, soon after arriving in Ketchikan, that the recreation building purchased last year, was about half way completed in the way of repairing and remodeling. We set about trying to find out what was supposed to be done, who had been doing the work, and who would help us finish the job, so that we could open it and use it for its intended purpose. I made an appeal one Sunday for men to help in their spare time. After Church that morning, a Mr. Erich Willegans, who has been attending services in our Church, told me that at the present time he was not employed, and that he was the type of man who could not remain idle, and that he would be willing to put in his time at the center. The next day, I took him up there, and we looked over the whole building, and he began to work. He started on the chapel first, and completed it. It is a beautiful little room, where young people, may draw aside, and have private devotions. The room at one time was a coal bin, but you would never recognize it now. It is all paneled wood, with a gothic style window, an altar with an open Bible on it, a kneeling bench in front of the altar, and the painting "The Good Shepherd" hanging above the altar.

A snack bar has been built in the room next to the

kitchen. There are two booths in this room also. The largest room downstairs will be a lounge and library, and a meeting place for groups. Brackets for frames, and curtain rods are all up, for the ladies of the Women's Missionary Society to hang the curtains. The floors have been all painted. But we lack furniture. We have a few tables, but no chairs. If we can get some broken furniture, Mr. Wildegans will repair it and paint it in bright colors and gay designs. He does beautiful work.

The Ketchikan Ministerial Union has a fifteen minute Radio Vespers program each week from 9:45 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday. This year they have been assigning each minister a week at a time, in order alphabetically by denominations. My week was December 4-8. It was quite a chore turning out five scripts in one week, but a valuable and enjoyable experience. Many of the men have gone on the air with little preparation, and there has been a good deal of justifiable criticism of the program in the community. I wanted to give the people something worthwhile, so I spent a good deal of time in preparing my scripts. It paid dividends, because we have heard many favorable reactions. One of them was from the Supt. of Schools who has asked me to repeat my Wednesday night broadcast before the high school assembly.

We are enjoying Alaska immensely. Our work here is intensely interesting. We are expecting God to do great things here.

Respectfully yours,

Edward D. Freeman

P.S. The session at their monthly meeting voted to accept the offer of the Board of National Missions for furnishing envelopes to begin the envelope system of giving beginning April 1, and to be preceded by an every member canvass the second Sunday in March. Should we order these envelopes and pledge cards from the Hubbard Press ourselves, or will the Board do that this year?

Letter to Mr. [unclear]

Our report for this month of necessity will be rather scanty. We arrived in Ketchikan on Thursday morning, November 2. The people weren't expecting us until November 17, so no one was around to meet us. When we found the church we found an army man and his wife and a teacher in the Indian service living in the manse. Fortunately the army couple had found an apartment just the night before we arrived, and the school teacher moved on to her boat. When word began to get around that we were in town, people began to drop in one by one to see us. They were so sorry that they didn't know we were coming so that they could have greeted us in true native fashion.

Our baggage hasn't arrived yet, though we know that it is on its way. It is coming on an Alaska Steamship boat. Their boats come into Ketchikan about every ten days. One arrived Monday of this week but our things were not aboard. The next boat comes in on Thanksgiving Day, November 23.

We had our first wedding in Ketchikan our first Saturday evening in the church. The women of the Missionary Society who were working in the kitchen getting ready for our reception on Sunday evening tip-toed to the back of the sanctuary to watch the ceremony.

I felt terribly inadequate to try to preach that first Sunday but we got through it somehow, and the people were very kind. The morning congregation was about two-thirds white, and about one-third native. We had one negro woman in the congregation. The evening congregation was about three-fourths native and about one-fourth white. We had a goodly number of service men, both Coast Guard and A.C.S. army men, in both services. About six of the teachers and the city librarian were members of the morning congregation.

Our Sunday School was our biggest disappointment. Since the Halls left, a Mrs. Piehl, has handled the Sunday School all by herself. There were 18 in Sunday School that first Sunday. We are having a conference Friday night of this week of all whom we hope to interest in helping in the Sunday School. We want to build up the attendance and to have a graded Sunday School with consecrated teachers.

Nothing has been done with the recreation center since Miss Giblin went to Haines House. From what I can gather she was the spark plug behind all its activity and gathered others about her who did quite a bit of work on the building. There is still considerable plumbing and carpenter work that has to be done on the building before it can be used. The roof needs repairing and there will have to be some furniture.

Most of our work so far has been in making pastoral calls and getting acquainted with people and finding out just how things stand.

We shall have our first prayer meeting in several years this week, and as soon as we can get material we shall begin some Christian Endeavor groups and some Bible classes for the government school children.

We are organizing a Mariners' Club this Saturday night.

At this time I can only give the names of two people in positions with whom you can correspond in case you need to take up any matters with the congregation. There are no trustees, three of the elders have shown no interest as yet. A fourth elder is leaving.

sup!

and we expect the future to be different. The two are: classical
style, also of the modern, and are George Jones, and others.

we are expecting great things of the future.

most truly yours,

Edward S. Freeman

Box 46
Ketchikan, Alaska
January 9, 1944

[1945]

The Reverend Mr. J. Earl Jackman
Secretary, Unit of Work in Alaska
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Jackman:

Your letter of January 2 arrived yesterday, and there are several things in your letter that I should answer.

I suppose that by the time, you receive this, you will have received my second report from Vern Swanson. The first report only covered from November 2nd through November 14th. We didn't receive our first month's salary from the Church here until November 30th. The session voted to pay me a salary of \$400 a year and to have an every member canvass each year, and see if they couldn't increase their portion of my salary each year. Then they voted to double what the board asked them to give because they felt they could and should do it, I didn't know what my salary would be from the board.

Results thus far have been very encouraging, and we have been led to believe that attendance at all services is consistently better than at any time in the church's history. I know from a study of the treasurer's book that the offerings are the largest in the history of the church.

We had the Recreation Center ready to open during the Christmas holidays, and then a cold spell came and froze all the water pipes, cracking some of them. I don't know when we shall be able to open it now. The man who has done practically all of the work on the building since we have been here has just accepted a position in Juneau, and so we must find someone now who can thaw out pipes, and replace the cracked ones. Our funds have been entirely exhausted for the Center, and people are reluctant to give any more towards the Center until they see that it is actually going to open. We had to pay this month's bills from the Church treasury.

T. R. Glover's "The Disciple" is a real inspiration to one in His service. Thank you for this inspiring book.

Just how does the system of procuring books for missionaries at 15% reduction operate. Does it extend to all books or just some? If it is possible to get the following books

under that arrangement. I should very much appreciate it:

Edwards - grand Rogers
"An Exposition of the Reformed Doctrine" by Bosma. *not of print*

W
A good exegetical commentary on Luke, Acts, and Genesis, either one of the two listed, preferably the first:

not available
Luke: Alfred Plummer (International Critical Commentary).
Frédéric Godet, T. & T. Clark, Edinburgh, 1889.

available
Acts: R. B. Rackham (Westminster Commentaries).
J. R. Lumby (Cambridge Bible).

not available
Genesis: Marcus Dods (Expositor's Bible).
S. R. Driver (Westminster Commentaries).

not available
I am in the process of studying the book of Luke at present, and when I complete my studies in Luke, I intend to study Acts. I expect to spend most of the summer in the study of Genesis. If for some reason it is impossible to get either of the books listed, I should appreciate some other good exegetical commentary. Something that you feel would be helpful for good solid study. I am not interested at present in devotional or homiletical material, but something for study.

Christmas services were well attended and very encouraging. It was truly a blessed season. Our people were far better to us than either of our Omaha churches ever were. We received so many lovely gifts, including ~~some~~ very fine native work which we should be unable to buy in the novelty shops because of the tremendous prices they ask for them. The native work was much better than the average gifts that you can buy in the shops. Our people have been very good to us, and we already have a host of genuine friends here in Ketchikan.

Thank you again for your lovely gift, and may this new year be a blessed one for you in your work.

Respectfully yours,

Edward D. Freeman

Edward D. Freeman

Box 46
Ketchikan, Alaska
January 14, 1945

FEB 14 1945

Alaska

The Reverend Mr. J. Earl Jackman
Secretary, Unit of Alaska Work
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Jackman:

During the week preceding Christmas, it was our privilege to add to the Christmas festivities of Ketchikan, by playing a daily concert of Christmas carols over radio station KTKN every afternoon, Monday through Saturday, 4 to 4:30 p.m. Pfc. Wallace R. Stabbert, our Church pianist played the grand piano, and I played the pipe organ. The program originated from the Coliseum Theater. The management very graciously allowed us to practice every day at noon for an hour for a whole month preceding our programs. The radio station received so many favorable comments on the programs that they have asked me to play an organ recital once every week. However, none of the details have been worked out as yet.

The prayer meeting the Wednesday before Christmas was designed to make a lull in the rush of Christmas preparation in the home, stores, and the church, and afforded an opportunity to remember what it was all about. Erich Wildegans built an artificial fireplace which was really a masterpiece of workmanship. We hung Sallman's "Head of Christ" over the fireplace. On the mantle was a miniature yule log with four candles in it. We brought down some throw rugs and some of the chairs from upstairs, and made one of the Sunday School rooms look just like somebody's living room. The only light in the room was from the glow of the artificial fire, the candles on the mantle, and four candles, all decorated with holly, on the piano. The best-loved of the Christmas songs were sung. Three selections were read by different people: The Christmas story from Luke, "The Centurion" by John Haynes Holmes, and part of the Cratchits' Christmas dinner from Dickens' "The Christmas Carol." The prayer session that followed is one I shall never forget. George Eaton was the first to pray. Mr. Eaton was one of the best elders this church has ever had. He is too old and feeble to serve on the session now, but he does love to come to prayer meeting. He had a nervous ailment that keeps his hands shaking quite violently all of the time. But when he prays there is not a tremor in his clear, powerful, deep, musical, bass voice. And when he prays, you cannot help but feel that he has lived very intimately with God for a long, long time. One cannot help but be lifted up by such praying. Many others prayed, some in English, some in Thlingit, some in Tsimpshian, some in Haida. But among them all one prayer stood out, and that was Mike Funner's. Mike was born in Russia, and as a very young boy moved with his parents into Germany. Mike prayed an old German prayer this night. It was the most beautiful, perfect high German that I have ever heard. Erich Wildegans, who has a wife and daughter whom he has not seen for five years because they are interned in Germany, went out of the prayer room into the sanctuary and wept. After the meeting was all over, the native women didn't want to get up and go home. No one seemed to want to break the spell of

the meeting. I had to go to another meeting that night, and when I returned an hour and a half later, two of the women were still sitting there enjoying the glow of the fireplace.

Our Christmas Eve service revealed an unusual Christmas custom in Ketchikan. We used the Christmas program furnished by the Board of Foreign Missions, and our offering that evening went to Foreign Missions. The Christmas Message was given by our Church School pupils. At the close of the service, Santa Claus appeared to distribute the thousands of presents that had been placed under the twenty foot blue spruce Christmas tree. Santa and his helpers managed to get all the presents distributed in about two hours. For it takes that long when everyone in town with any Presbyterian connections comes to Church on Christmas Eve, as they do in Ketchikan. It seems to be an old and well established custom that everyone, no matter if they never go to Church at any other time, go to Church on Christmas Eve. Also, Santa Claus does not stop at their homes, but only at the Churches, so everyone must go to Church to receive his presents. As they came in that evening, every family came in laden down with all the presents for the family and their friends and placed them under the tree. Then when they received their presents from Santa, they opened them, and took them home. It is fine that the Church has such a central place in the Christmas observance.

The choir from the Presbyterian Church in Metlakatla sang their Christmas cantata for our prayer meeting the Wednesday after Christmas, and again we had a capacity house.

On New Year's Eve, we had a very interesting time. We had our regular evening service at 7:30 with 38 in attendance. Following the service about half of the group went home, and I didn't think we should have very many for the Watchnight party which was to follow immediately afterwards in the Sunday School rooms. But a whole flock of new people came, and we had 51 for the party. Pat Verney, one of the elders from Metlakatla, who has a printing job with the Alaska Fishing News in Ketchikan, showed movies for an hour and three-quarters. He had pictures taken on his trips to three presbytery meetings, some of Metlakatla, and one reel of the people coming out of the Ketchikan Church last Easter. He also had a reel on "Washington in War-time" and two comedies. Following the movies the Women's Missionary Society served lunch, and then followed a program of stunts and a talent program. Following the party, over half the folks went home again, and I thought that we should have but a handful for the candlelight consecration service at 11:30, but again some different folks came, and we had 36 at this closing service. The people were quite impressed with this service, and it seems to have definitely changed a few lives. We had a young couple in the service that evening that used to drink quite a bit. Something in that service must have struck home for neither of them have touched a drop of liquor since, and neither of them has missed a service. The woman has joined our women's missionary society also.

The Ketchikan Youth Council had its initial organization meeting Friday, December 12, at the Lutheran Seamen's Home, with a representative of the eight cooperating churches in attendance, and your Presbyterian missionary in Ketchikan representing the Ketchikan Ministerial Association as the pastor counsellor of the group. The council voted to double its size by having two representatives from each church instead of one. A city wide youth hymn sing to be held Sunday, February 4 at 9:15 p.m. at the Lutheran Seamen's Home, was decided upon as the first project of the council. It is hoped that the monthly hymn sing will soon outgrow

the Seaman's Home, and have to shift to the churches.

Juvenile Delinquency in Ketchikan is a very serious problem as it is everywhere else. It is a much talked of subject in all circles, but nothing much has really been done about, nor do most of the groups discussing it really get down to fundamentals in attacking the problem. So the Ketchikan Ministerial Association decided that it would be a grand opportunity to get some publicity, and to really let the people know where they stand on something, and to present a united front on something. As a result we got more publicity in one week from the two local papers, than the churches have gotten in years before. On Friday, the Fishing News carried a very complete story on the fact that all of us were preaching on Juvenile Delinquency, Sunday, Jan. 14. The Chronicle carried a four column, 12 inch ad. On Saturday, the Chronicle editorialized on it, and Hamilton's Plumbing Shop featured it in their ad, and, of course, all of our Church notices bore the news. All of the service clubs were personally invited to attend Church somewhere, and all of the public officials were given special invitations to attend Church somewhere. The whole town is talking and comparing notes with each other on what the various preachers said about the subject, and that is a healthy situation. We don't know where we shall strike next, but we expect to break through this terrific indifference to Church in this town.

Several of us ministers in Ketchikan felt the need of getting together with our wives for prayer. So for two Saturday evenings now four of us and our wives have gathered together to pray for each other, for our churches, and for the Sunday services. We are expecting great things from God, and already God is manifesting His power. This fellowship of prayer is what all of us need.

Respectfully yours,

Edward D. Freeman

Edward D. Freeman

W. J. Morgan
2/4/45 - 1 P.M.

Alaska **TE** **1945**
FEB 21 1945

MONTHLY NARRATIVE

On Monday, January 15, we organized a Christian Service Brigade for Boys. There were ten boys present at the organization meeting. Brigade meets at the Presbyterian Community Recreation Center on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. Brigade officers are Captain, Edward D. Freeman; Lieutenants, Charles Boyer and John Reese; Sergeant, George Inman, Jr.; Scribe, Billy Cummings; Treasurer, Ernie Bayl; Corporals, Lawrence Dalton and Nick Christomos; Lance Corporals, Lawrence Frisch and Karl Leask.

At 7 p.m. promptly Brigade begins with "Battalion fall in," sergeant in charge, salutes the captain, says, "Battalion is formed, sir." Captain leads briefly in prayer.

At 7:05 p.m. are squad meetings with corporals in charge. The squad meetings consist of very brief devotions led by corporal, study for achievements, planning of special squad activities, hikes, etc., squad business and preparation of squad report.

At 7:25 p.m. squads report. Upon sergeant's command each corporal reports: Squad attendance, accomplishments of squad meeting, announceable squad plans for the future.

At 7:30 p.m. is "Captain's Special" which gives the Captain an opportunity to inject a certain element of variety into the regular program, and also provide him a chance to test general progress in various fields.

At 7:40 p.m. the battalion plays lively, rough games that boys love.

At 8:20 p.m. is the council ring -- "Bible adventure time, "Story Hour," or what will you call it? The "Magic Carpet" time when my Brigadiers and I sail off on the wings of a story and explore some of the deep things of God.

At 8:45 p.m. the battalion is dismissed with an invitation to any boy who would like to remain for a few minutes to talk with the captain about the Lord Jesus or anything else on his heart, or to pass a test on the handbook.

Brigade contains all that is good in scouting, but more definitely ties activities in with the church, and definitely tries to win the boys to personal loyalty to Jesus Christ.

On Tuesday, January 16, Miss Lela Morgan, teacher in the White Cliff School in Ketchikan, showed pictures of Puerto Rico. Miss Morgan taught school for three years at Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. She had quite a few pictures of Aguadilla and the surrounding countryside, and of our mission work in Puerto Rico. The attendance that evening broke all records. An interesting sidelight is that a man who came in on a boat that day and had to lay over in Ketchikan while the boat loaded here, walked past the church, and noticed the sign out in front advertising that Miss Lela Morgan would speak and show pictures on Puerto Rico that evening. The man had just come from Puerto Rico, and he was indeed surprised to see our sign. He came and thoroughly enjoyed himself and had quite a conversation with Miss Morgan.

On Sunday, February 4, the first Youth Hymn Sing was held at the Lutheran Seamen's Home, under the sponsorship of the Ketchikan Youth Council. Ketchikan Youth Council has two representatives from each protestant church in Ketchikan, with me as their adviser. The Presbyterian representatives are John Reese and Lois Whitesides. The first sing wasn't too well advertised, but 46 came out and enjoyed it. The young people who did attend were enthusiastic and want to

have them every other Sunday evening, instead of once a month as originally planned. They meet at 9:15 p.m. so as not to conflict with any evening services. The large bulk of the program is hymn singing, with a short devotional, and a few special musical numbers.

The protestant chaplain at the United States Coast Guard Base here in Ketchikan left last week to visit all the little outlying stations between here and Skagway on the Inside Passage, and then plan to visit all those on the outside passage on the way back. He expects to be gone for three or four weeks. In his absence, I am taking his morning service at 10 a.m. and go out and sit in his office two or three mornings a week to "shoot the breeze" with any of the boys that come in or to counsel with any of the boys who want to talk with a protestant minister. So far no problems have come up, but there have been several boys who just drifted in to "shoot the breeze" with the chaplain.

On Sunday, February 11, the Ketchikan Presbyterian Church went over to Metlakatla to assist in the evening service, when the newly repaired, improved, and redecorated sanctuary was rededicated. I had the rededication prayer.

On Thursday, February 1, I had the privilege of speaking before the Frances Willard Union of the W.C.T.U. here in Ketchikan. They had quite a large group of women present and take a very active and intelligent interest in the affairs of the territorial legislature, and the city council.

January 22 to 26 was my week on the Ketchikan Ministerial Association's Radio Vespers program at 9:45 p.m. each evening. I used Stewardship as my theme. It seems to be a subject about which both natives and whites are terribly ignorant around here. For the first three nights I used one-act stewardship plays to present the message I wanted to put across. On Monday evening I used the play, "Thanksgiving Ann", as a reading. On Tuesday evening, our Women's Missionary Society, gave "Ways and a Way!" On Wednesday evening, a young man and I presented "Was 'Smith' His Real Name." On Thursday and Friday evenings I gave devotionals talks on "Stewardship." I have received many favorable comments on the series, but I have no evidence, as yet, that the message of stewardship sunk in to any extent.

We have not received our copy of The Gospel in Action by McLaughlin nor the booklet on Seventh Day Adventism as yet, but are looking forward to them. I should like to have you send me a copy of the older edition of A Dictionary of the Bible by John D. Davis, Pastoral Work and Personal Counseling by Russel L. Dicks and the Clarendon Bible Series for Acts.

I have just finished reading "Out of My Life and Thought" by Albert Schweitzer, a new acquisition in the public library here in Ketchikan. I thoroughly enjoyed it. It certainly makes one humble to see what one man can accomplish.

Box 46
Ketchikan, Alaska
February 22, 1945

RE 3 1945
Marked by
[illegible]

The Reverend Mr. J. Earl Jackman
Secretary, Unit of Alaska Work
Presbyterian Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Jackman:

The other day I was up at radio station KTKN making the final arrangements for a broadcast on the World Day of Prayer for the Ketchikan Ministerial Association. While I was there, Mr. Henry Hogue, the manager of the radio station, asked me if our church would be interested in broadcasting our Sunday evening service.

He said that every year they are besieged by requests from off-brand sects to buy time on Sunday evenings during the fishing season. He would very much like to see one of the established denominational churches broadcast their Sunday evening service, so that when these groups come to him, he can say that the Presbyterian Church has already contracted to use that particular time. Our church is the only established denominational church in Ketchikan with a Sunday evening service. He wants to be sure that he will have some group that will have a little respect for the time allotted them and will be careful to present a well-planned and well-worked out program that is worthy of being presented over the air.

We feel that it is a real opportunity for us, as almost every man in our congregation earns his living by fishing. The trolling season begins in the middle of March. That doesn't affect so many of our members. But for about six weeks during July and August, the church is practically deserted (except for servicemen and whites who work in professions or business places in town) the men being out fishing and the women working in the canneries. It would be a marvelous opportunity to bring a spiritual ministry to these fishermen. For most of them it will be their only religious contact during the summer months.

Mr. Hogue is very anxious that we try it out for at least a 13 week period, and then if we should like to continue on through the winter, arrangements can be made. The only catch is, of course, financial. We cannot swing the financial part of it alone, and that is why we are writing to you. The radio station would charge us \$25 a Sunday for our broadcast. If we can find some outside help in swinging it, I think it will be a very worthwhile missionary project, for it will reach every fisherman in this part of Alaska. All of them have radios on their boats, and they listen to every program that comes over KTKN, as it is about the only station that they can get.

Does the Board of National Missions have funds for such projects? Should I write to friends in the States who have churches who might be interested in helping us? Obviously, it would be foolish to start a project if we weren't sure in advance that we were going to be able to go through with our contract. We should appreciate your advice in the matter.

Respectfully yours,

Edward D. Freeman

Edward D. Freeman

Our Every Member Canvass began Sunday, March 11, and will continue until every member has been canvassed for a pledge. Things look good thus far, but it is too early to predict results.

At our Christian Service Brigade for Boys on Tuesday, March 6, six boys accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. They remained after the other boys had gone home to inquire the way more perfectly.

The Princeton-Hall docked in Ketchikan, Saturday afternoon, March 10. It was our privilege to have Paul Prouty, Andrew Wanamaker, and Gibson Young in our services Sunday, March 11. We enjoyed their warm Christian fellowship.

The Women's Missionary society had a good meeting Tuesday, March 13. Mrs. Freeman told about the work at Mary Holmes Junior College and Haines House. They elected officers for the coming year and planned for the Easter morning breakfast that follows the Sunrise worship service.

Peter John, a charter member in the Ketchikan Church, died this week of cancer at the Ketchikan General Hospital. Unfortunately, the hospital here is a Roman Catholic hospital, and the hospital chaplain found out that Mr. John had been baptized a Roman Catholic as a baby. Mr. John was really too sick to know what was going on, but the priest took him back in to the Roman fold, gave him communion and administered the rite of extreme unction, and then insisted that Mr. John be given nothing but a Catholic funeral. Not one single person at the funeral was a Romanist. The Roman church is pushing its way into Alaska stronger and stronger, and our lack of men in Alaska is making room for the Romanists and the Pentecostals to take over our people and our churches. The Seventh Day Adventists and the Jehovah's Witnesses are continuing their work of door to door book peddling all over Ketchikan. Jehovah's Witnesses have several Bible classes in native homes. We are still looking for the book on Seventh Day Adventism that was to be sent to us.

The Ketchikan Ministerial Association voted to extend an invitation to the Federal Council's preaching mission if E. Stanley Jones was to be the speaker. Only two votes were cast against it, that of the Seventh Day Adventist man and the Pentecostal man. A year ago the Methodist man stood alone in favor of it. We believe that E. Stanley Jones will do us a lot of good. Certainly lots of people will come out to hear him that would come out to hear no one else.

MONTHLY NARRATIVE (continued)

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Dear Brother Swanson:

Fred Wallace, Mrs. Virginia Inman, and myself will be at presbytery for sure. If there are to be any others from Ketchikan, I shall let you know just as soon as I know.

El Freeman

Excerpt from Mr. Freeman's June-July report (Narrative) re:

KETCHIKAN, ALASKA:

"Francis Wilson, a young man from Seattle, who is doing a lot of architectural work in Ketchikan, and who attended church here regularly, was up to see me the other day.

Ketchikan is getting two new industries, a car ferry and a pulp mill. The population is increasing rapidly, and we are in the middle of a building boom. It is not hard to see where the population is now, and it is not hard to see which way the population trend is going. The section of Ketchikan that I showed you the morning we walked out there is expanding rapidly with a whole new section that extends several miles on a very gradual slope opening up in the near future. Mr. Wilson thinks that now is the time to buy property before the prices go sky high. It would not be a bad investment and the property could be sold easily even if not used. I know permission has not gone through Home Missions Council yet, and, perhaps, the Board could not buy any property until that permission were granted. Would it be possible without Home Missions Council permission to buy some property locally, if I can get some business men interested in buying it for the purpose of building a Presbyterian Church in that area, if and when permission is granted by the Home Missions Council."

"Out Ministerial Association does not meet again until fall."

July 25, 1946

per FK

Return to
Unit of Work In Alaska,
Room 711.

DEC 26 1946

MERRY

CHRISTMAS



P. O. Box 46
Ketchikan, Alaska
December 16, 1946

Dear Friends:

This year our Christmas greetings really come from a land of snow. We have had so little real Christmas weather the last two winters, that it seems mighty fine to have the real thing this year. Everything has been so beautiful! Of course, this really wouldn't be much snow back in the Middle West or in the East, but Ketchikan hasn't had so much for years. Having so much beautiful snow reminds us of Christmases back in Minnesota as children. And Christmas reminds us of the One Whose birth we celebrate. What a privilege we, who know the Christ, have and what a responsibility we have, since the telling of that wonderful story has been entrusted to us. It seems that no generation has ever lived that has had such wonderful opportunities to serve our Lord and King. May we enter joyously into a New Year of fruitful service!

We must go back and tell you of a few outstanding events since our last letter to you. May 28-June 4 were the dates of our Alaska Presbytery Westminster Fellowship summer conference at Sheldon Jackson School. Dr. Gilbert Close was our dean and set such a high standard for our summer conferences that we are going to have a hard time attaining such peaks in the years that follow. Only time can reveal all that a Young People's Conference can mean to an individual. At this conference I met again one of the boys who had been in my fellowship group the year before. Before that conference he had been quite a problem in Sheldon Jackson School, and had been asked not to return. However, the day before school opened, he appeared on the campus, and talked so convincingly to the principal that he was taken back. He was a model Christian boy all year. He had accepted Christ as his own personal Saviour in my fellowship group and had found Him the all-sufficient One all during the year. He was taken back this year for his senior year without any question or hesitation.

Pastor-Evangelist and Mrs. E. M. Anderson and their son Gordon and his wife Marion were here in special meetings in our church July 22-28. Pastor-Evangelist Anderson was a real blessing to our people. They had movies that they had taken all over Norway just before the war. Those movies were quite a drawing card for the large Norwegian population we have in Ketchikan. Mrs. Anderson had her large golden harp. During the Sunday morning service, Mrs. Anderson was playing her harp and singing that beautiful paraphrase of

the eighty-fourth Psalm, "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings," when a drunk staggered into the service and was quite a disturbing influence, and finally had to be asked to leave. Our church in Ketchikan is at the curbside by which a turbulent tide flows. Federal government offices, jail, post office, and the head of the street not called straight are at its door. We are located right in the heart of the greatest need. Sometimes we wonder if we shouldn't be running a rescue mission in this location instead of a regular church.

During the first two weeks in August I went down to Seattle and was royally entertained by some ex-servicemen who had been stationed in Ketchikan during the war and had been entertained in our home on numerous occasions. One couple that I had had the privilege of marrying told me how much they had appreciated all the pre-marital counselling that I had given them, and were still trying to make theirs a happy home upon the Christian principles that I had outlined with them. I got a much needed change of glasses and was amazed to see the world clearly again. I hadn't realized how much my eyes had changed until I could actually see clearly again. I had three days of spiritual feasting at Lake Sammamish where I met lots of fine new friends and where I enjoyed the deep spiritual fellowship of kindred spirits. Again, I didn't realize how famished for spiritual fellowship I had been until I was partaking of it.

Our Christian Workers' and Homemakers' School for Adults was held at Sheldon Jackson Junior College, September 18-30. We had the poorest fishing season this summer in history, so the fishermen were granted several extensions that lasted past the time when the "Princeton-Hall" was to leave Ketchikan. Consequently there were no delegates from this end of the Presbytery at all, and very few from the north end. Dr. Jesse Baird, president of the San Francisco Theological Seminary, was the spiritual leader and Bible teacher. Miss Lillian Windham, assistant secretary of the Department of Educational and Medical Work, was the women's leader. Elwood Hunter of Sitka and I were the other two teachers. To make it worthwhile for the teachers, the junior college students and high school seniors went to the conference classes rather than to their regular classes. We have met quite a few of the Board secretaries since coming to Alaska. The deep spirituality of each one has strengthened my faith in Christ and given me a new confidence in our Boards because I realize that they are being administered by devout, spiritual leaders. The Presbyterian Church can be proud of its Board secretaries.

While I was in Sitka at the conference, Bettie was busy in Ketchikan. Creek Street, Ketchikan's notorious red light section, has run more openly this summer than ever before. Bettie led a group of 600 mothers in protesting the city council's laxness and demanded an ordinance that would be a protection in the future and would give the police the power to do something about the situation. The AAUW, the Ministerial Association, the Chamber of Commerce, and others joined with the mothers in protesting. A special meeting of the City Council was held at which the city council chambers were filled to capacity, and loud speakers were placed outside so that several hundred persons who couldn't get in, could hear the proceedings. This administration which has been notoriously weak was scared of such a crowd, and a bit resentful that the public should demand that they do anything, but they finally passed the ordinance, and all the prostitutes were evacuated from Creek Street. Most of them went on to Juneau and Anchorage. As a result of Bettie's capable leadership in this crusade, she has been since then made chairman of the Health Council, president of the WCTU, and a member of the PEO.

Bettie made a trip with a group of the Presbyterial officers on the

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"Princeton-Hall" for three and a half weeks visiting all the churches in our presbytery north of here. Mrs. Webster of Wrangell made the first part of the trip when they visited the three churches on the west coast of Prince of Wales Island and Metlakatla. Bettie joined them here at Ketchikan taking Mrs. Webster's place for the rest of the trip. They visited seventeen churches, making a two day visit in each place. In the afternoon, they had a Bible study, discussions of various problems and duties of officers, and a children's meeting. The first evening was devoted to the Christian Home, and the second evening was a consecration service, in which the film, "The Healing of M'Vonlo" was shown. The women were royally entertained everywhere they went. Though it was a strenuous trip with constant speaking and meeting new problems in each place, yet it was a treat and a privilege, and a vacation for Bettie.

The work here in Ketchikan has been very encouraging this year. People are responding to the Gospel message, and are showing an interest in helping in the service of the Church that has not been true before. Attendance at almost everything has been consistently good.

On Thanksgiving Day, the St. Elizabeth's and St. John's Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches had a joint Thanksgiving service in our church. I presided. The Reverend Albert N. Jones, priest in charge of the Episcopal churches, read the Scripture lesson and prayer, and the Rev. Wm. Arthur Cox, pastor of the Methodist Church, brought the Thanksgiving message. The Methodist junior choir sang an arrangement of "For the Beauty of the Earth" and a combined adult choir from the four participating churches sang the old Netherland folk song, "Prayer of Thanksgiving". Miss Lorna Schuppert, high school music instructor, directed the joint choirs. Miss Schuppert is a member of the Presbyterian Church in Iowa City, Iowa. Over 200 attended the service. It was good to see such a variety of people, all mixed up in the congregation, worshipping together. It is an experience which we have every Sunday in this church, but it was a new experience for many of the Methodists and Episcopalians. We had whites of numerous nationalities, Indians of three different tribes, negroes, Philipinos, and Japanese.

*Copied
for
Outreach*

On December 1, thirteen young married couples, and nine of their children met at our home for a pot-luck supper. They all enjoyed themselves so much that they are planning to do it regularly on the first Sunday of each month in the social rooms of the Church.

Susan is in first grade and enjoying her work. The Main School, near where we live, was so over-crowded that Susan and several others were transferred to the White Cliff School. So she leaves home at 8:30 each morning on a bus, and we don't see her again until after 3:30 in the afternoon. It makes a long, hard day for her.

Sally is a little charmer and everyone loves her. She has gotten to be quite a chatterbox. She talks continuously, constantly asking questions, and hardly lets up long enough to eat her meals.

Peter is growing like a weed. He is a good example of perpetual motion. He is very husky and likes to play rough. He is very friendly and treats everyone as though he had known them all his life.

All in all, we think we have three pretty fine P.K's.

We covet your continued prayers during the coming New Year of service,

Yours in the Master's service,

Edward D. Freeman